



**STAFF COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING
MINUTES
OCTOBER 26TH, 2023 | 2:00 – 3:30 PM
UC Legacy Hall 145**

Attendance

- Present
Christina Loftin, Lauran Guerra, Jacquelyn Flowers, Ricardo Reyes, Alexandra Janney, Jessica Aleman, Kit Wilson, Julian Martinez, Lorraine Soliz, Christopher Palfreyman, Alexis De Leon, Nathaniel Galvan, Erica Hill, Ben Soto, Esmeralda Vasquez, Trennon Cavanagh, Alex Zavala, Roxanne Singaas, Diana Avila, Zelda Chacon, Regina Gonzales
- Absent
Hayford Osei, Jaclyn Mahlmann, Michelle Hollenbaugh, Sara Chapa, DeAnna Crites, Angelica Santillan, Maria Pedigo, Mary Canales, Cynthia Duff, Johnathan Cooper
- Guests
Linda Ramon-Barbato

1. Call to Order

- Trennon Cavanagh called to order at 2:05 PM.

2. Guest Speaker

- Linda Ramon-Barbato | Outreach & Compliance Coordinator | College of Graduate Studies| Giving Tuesday (GT) Committee Member – “Giving Tuesday Registration” – (2 minutes) - A few sites are still available for “Giving Tuesday” – 425 volunteers are the 10th anniversary goal. Registration closes on November 5th at EOD.

3. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes from 9/28/23 - Diana Avila motioned to approve Kit Wilson seconded.

4. Old Business

- None

5. Staff Council Committee Reports

- President’s Report – Alexandra Janney (Trennon Cavanagh filled in) - Committee on committees has approved the minutes and agenda template for the University. Going forward, minutes and agenda will be in that approved format. - If a Staff Council member/committee sees an opportunity for us to reach out to a different group on campus, please bring that opportunity forward to the executive committee for consideration.
- Vice-President’s Report – Trennon Cavanagh - Merged with President’s Report for this meeting, as Trennon presenting for “President’s report”.
- Treasurer’s Report – DeAnna Crites (Trennon Cavanagh filled in) - Executive needs to meet to divvy out funds from the sub accounts DeAnna created. If you see a need for a purchase, reach out to the executive committee to get the order placed.



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- Nominations and Elections – Trennon Cavanagh – Nothing to report.
- Communication Committee – Lauran Guerra – Nothing to report.
- Ad Hoc Bylaws Review Committee – Nathan Galvan – Sent out bylaws for review and cleaned up version has been posted on Teams. Over two-thirds of Staff Council was present at this meeting so the election to ratify the new bylaws took place – Election took place and bylaws were ratified with no further questions or opposition.
- Benefits & Employee Development – Julian Martinez – Julian is awaiting the return of Alexandra to determine this committees' goals.
- University Relations – Esmeralda Vasquez
- Halloween Break in the Day - Everything is finalized, Group and Individual as well as Pumpkin decorating contest will take place. Volunteer slots are full for the event – but anyone from Staff Council is welcome to show up to volunteer the day of the event. - Islander lights – Santa has been found and booked. Volunteers are needed to take the pictures with Santa as a camera will be set up for us. 5 potential volunteer spots will be available. Esmeralda will make a volunteer lists soon. For Islander Lights, Large boxes are needed for the stage backdrop for Santa pictures – if anyone has extra-large boxes, please consider donating them to Staff Council for the stage decorations (wrapped “presents”). The library may have some extra-large boxes to donate.

6. University Committee Reports

- Calendar Committee - Lauran Guerra - Met to discuss proposed University Calendar dates all the way through 2027. “Fall Break” (similar to “Spring Break”) is being considered for TAMU-CC. TAMU has a “Fall Break”. Committee is trying to determine where the “Fall Break” would take place. Final Examination days were also discussed, traditionally 6 days were permitted for finals but recently this has been cut to 5 days. Two college Deans reached out to Missy Chapa to request the 6 days for finals again. This was approved and Missy was able to restore the 6 days for Finals.
- Campus Wellness Committee - Mary Canales – Not present.
- Committee on Committees - Trennon Cavanagh – Got together last to discuss the new minutes/agenda template. No new business otherwise.
- Environmental Committee - Nathan Galvan – Meeting will be next month (every quarter).
- Expressive Activity Committee - Ben Soto – Working on rescheduling the meeting.
- Faculty Senate - Trennon Cavanagh – Could not attend the meeting this month. Will update.
- Historically Underutilized Business Comm. - Ricardo Reyes – Ric sent a proxy so he could not report.
- Institutional Effectiveness - Alexandra Janney – Zero Textbook Costs have been discussed on campus. Updates pending.



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- International Education Committee - Hayford Osei – Not present.
- Strategic Planning Council - Alexandra Janney – Not present.
- Student Endowment Scholarship Comm. - Regina Gonzalez – Only meets in the Fall.
- Student Success Council - Jessica Aleman – Building on the student success plan, have done 17 of 18 listening tours around campus with staff. Hoping to get more faculty feedback. Have been looking to hold listening tours for students as well. They have been examining the various “holds” that can affect student registration. Senate Bill 459 will give 2nd day registration priority to parents with minor children. FAFSA does identify parents but does not identify how old the children are. If a registrant has identified as a parent, a follow up Qualtrics will be sent requesting the age of the children. Some students who have academic probation will have a 13-credit hour cap for Fall and Spring Semester. Students with 45 credits or less will have a mandatory advising hold. Rosie Ruiz said Senate Bill 459 will also apply to students who are currently pregnant.
- Transportation Advisory Committee - Johnathan Cooper - Not present.
- University Safety Committee - Johnathan Cooper - Not present.

7. Liaison Reports

- Advisor Update – Jaclyn Mahlmann – Dr. Flowers presented on behalf of Jaclyn - Staff have started to move back into the round building! The University has been approved for a BS in Public Health. Chick-fil-a in the cove will now notify you when your order is done via cell phone to prevent back-up in the cove.
- HR Update – Dr. Jacquelyn Flowers – Merritt payment decision will be coming to supervisors soon.
- IT Update – Ben Soto – Sent out departmental emails for validation for the TMP program. If your areas have not been contacted, reach out to your supervisor to make sure the TMP installs can take place next month. Information Security Awareness month has been going on.

8. New Business

- None

9. Good of the Order

- Rosie Ruiz reminded the group about Compliance and Ethics week (Nov 6 – 10th). HR will have a series of presentations during the week, but Friday will be Zoom only. Meetings will cover a variety of HR topics; hot topic will be Senate Bill 17 (the “DEI” bill). In November of 2024 Ethics and Compliance week and CLIMB Week will be combined into one event.
- Zelda Chacon – Updated on changes to the “Self-funded insurance”, Blue Cross Blue Shield – because of certain weight loss pill and “Humera” medication coverage there is a 7-million-dollar shortage. There is a lot of discussion about stopping the coverage of the pills if only used for weight loss – a decision will be



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reached in February. Last year, there were only 77 “high-cost claimants” (\$100k per person per year) this year there are 247 high-cost claimants.

10. Adjourn

- Christopher Palfreyman motioned to adjourn – Jessica Aleman seconded – adjourned at 2:43 PM.

Next Meeting

- November 16th, 2 – 3:30 PM @ UC Legacy Hall 145